

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5809
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2002
IMPORT OF WASHING SOAP FROM NEPAL
DINESH CHANDRA YADAV

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several soap manufacturing units in the country particularly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are on the verge of closure due to import of washing soap from Nepal;
- (b) whether the material used in the imported soaps have been tested;
- (c) if so, the details of the proportion in which various materials are mixed in the imported soaps;
- (d) whether the Government are aware that the soap is being imported at reduced cost causing loss of customs and cess duties to the tune of crores of rupees per annum;
- (e) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

- (a) : No specific representations have been received in Deptt. of Commerce from the Indian industry about the adverse impact of import of soaps manufactured in Nepal.
- (b) : No Sir.
- (c) : Deptt. of Commerce are not aware of any study being conducted to analyze the details of the proportion in which various materials are mixed in the imported soaps.
- (d), (e) & (f) : India-Nepal Treaty of Trade provides for import of all articles including soaps manufactured in Nepal except for a list of three items namely alcoholic liquors / beverage, perfumes & cosmetics and cigarettes & tobacco, without payment of basic customs duty subject to fulfillment of the prescribed conditions. Corrective measures have been taken at the time of renewal of India-Nepal Treaty of Trade on 2nd March, 2002, to protect the interests of the Indian industry.